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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |   |    |   | <i>Complete if Known</i> |                         |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       | 09/580,485              |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | May 30, 2000            |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al. |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 2829                    |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Asok K. Sarkar          |
|   |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number   | 740756-2154             |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 |                          |                         |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS             |                          |  |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials <sup>1</sup> | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document                       | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                                   |                          | Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
| AKS                               |                          | US-6,531,713 B1                            | 03/11/2003                     | Yamazaki   |   |
|                                   |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS          |                          |                           |  |                                |  |   |
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| Examiner<br>Initials <sup>1</sup> | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                                   |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                |  |   |
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| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials <sup>1</sup>                 | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the<br>item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s),<br>publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>2</sup> |
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| Examiner<br>Signature | Asok Kumar Sarkar | Date<br>Considered | 2/9/2004 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.